J: Whited G-5 (1890) 1894 MT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa
Pima NW 29

PR 135

these metals exist within the limits of the several reservations. A few adventurers claim that if the Indians title to the land could be extinguished enterprising miners would soon develop paying quantities of the precious metals, but such statements need verification.

PR 764

CUSTOMS AND RELIGION.—Should one of the tribe die, it was formerly the practice to burn the tent, hunt and kill all the animals owned by the deceased, and destroy all his property; but such practices have been abandoned within the past 15 years. Their mode of burial now is to dig a grave 5 or 6 feet in depth, then dig a vault at one side large enough to receive the body, fill the grave, and cover it with poles or brush, probably to prevent the violation of sepulture by the coyotes. Several such Indian burying grounds may now be seen on the Gila River reservation.

PR 797

Viewed from a religious standpoint, a steady advance has been made within the past 10 years, though the progress has been slow. The Presbyterian church has erected a small adobe chapel at this agency, in which Sunday school and other services are held every week and are well attended. In addition, a small adobe chapel has been erected and partially completed at Blackwater village, about 12 miles east of the agency, but within the limits of the reservation, with a church membership of 25, about equally divided between the sexes. The Pimas have 3 church buildings, valued at $7,000.

PR 177 262 342

PROGRESS.—The material and economic progress made by the Pima and Maricopa tribes within the past 15 years is quite noticeable. Formerly all carcasses of horses and mules which fell on the great road stretching along the south bank of the Gila river, through what is now the Pima reservation, were quickly appropriated by the Indians and used as food. Their dwellings were then miserable huts, built of brush and weeds; now there are nearly 100 adobe houses, and a large number of their huts are built of willows and sticks, well plastered on the sides and roof with adobe, these among them who can do so building houses in the Mexican style. According to a count made July 1, 1890, out of 800 dwellings of all kinds 90 were adobe houses.

PR 177 648 241

The agent is encouraging improvements by issuing a new wagon to each Indian who builds a house, imposing the condition that the wagon shall be properly cared for and housed. On the fulfillment of certain other conditions he issues a plow or harrow, thus encouraging improved methods of farming. The Indians quite readily avail themselves of these opportunities, and since September 1, 1889, there have been issued 33 wagons, 12 sets of harness, 30 plows, 200 shovels, 200 hoes, 80 iron rakes, 160 axes, 160 sickles, and 40 swamp hooks. The Pimas are self-supporting, receiving no rations or annuities and no gifts from the government except farming tools, and their desire for these implements shows the progress that is being made in agriculture among them.

PR 177 291 [822] [302]

In dress great progress has been made in adopting that of the whites. Probably one-half of the men wear shirts, pants, shoes, and hats; one-third go barefoot; rarely one may be seen at his cabin without covering to the legs. Some of the children wear very little clothing. The women wear no shoes in warm weather. A woolen skirt, with blouse waist, suffices for their covering, except that they wear a shawl, or a cheap substitute for one, drawn around their shoulders without folds and falling to the knees. No covering for the head is worn except when the shawl is drawn over it. Red is the prevailing color of the dress; the brighter it is the more desirable it will be. The hair is parted in the middle and combed back, and is usually worn long by both sexes, but the men have been encouraged to cut their hair short and wear hats, and efforts in this direction are meeting with some success.

PR 177 273 548 [579] [648]

MORALS OF THE PIMAS AND MARICOPAS.—Drunkenness, prostitution, theft, and gambling may be classed as the prevailing vices of these Indians. According to the best authority obtainable drunkenness is on the increase among the Pimas. The cause of this increase may be traced to contact with the whites, who sell them intoxicants. They manufacture a cheap fermented liquor from corn or cactus fruit and indulge in drinking at their dances; but drinking does not appear to be more common with them than among the whites, and, indeed, one has but to stand by any of the many open bars of the territory to become convinced that drinking prevails extensively among the superior race. Cases of prostitution are too common, but do not seem to be increasing. Instances of brawls and quarrels are not frequent unless some of the parties are drunk. Fifty Indian boys attending school will pursue boisterous games day after day and never engage in a quarrel or a fight. The Pimas as a tribe are peaceful, and claim that they never warred with the whites, but were obliged to take up the hatchet against their natural enemies, the Apaches, in order to preserve their existence, and having quieted them, they returned to their peaceful avocations.

PR 164

DISEASES.—The tribe is more or less tainted with venereal diseases. The Indians are scattered over the reservation, and the agency physician attends to but a small portion of those who are sick. No reliable statistics of diseases and deaths here ever been collected, and it is impossible to determine with any great degree of accuracy the proportion of deaths resulting from the several diseases or accidents. The agency physician reports the diseases as scrofula, consumption, conjunctivitis, and syphilis. Rheumatism prevails to some extent, but owing to the mildness of the climate it is not as prevalent as among tribes farther north. Scrofulous swellings on the neck and scrofulous ulcers are often seen. One old resident thinks that from 10 to 20 per cent of the deaths are due to consumption. The physician states that a large majority of the cases of scrofula and conjunctivitis can be traced to a syphilitic taint.

PR [755]

The Indians can not be relied upon to administer medicines furnished and prescribed by the physician. A large majority of them lack faith in prescribed remedies. They prefer the singing and howling of the medicine men.